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 THIS APPLICATION IS A 371 OF PCT/FI98/01022 12/23/1998.
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METHOD OF PACKAGING A WEB, AND A PACKAGE PRODUCED THEREBY

→ B2 The invention relates to a method of packaging a web and to a package produced by the method.

37 Webs intended for sanitary products are typically made from natural
 5 fibers, such as wood fibers, and synthetic fibers or mixtures thereof, by binding the web by binders or bonding fibers. All web production methods are feasible, such as different wet and dry methods, including what is known as dry web forming and carding. By a web machine, such as a dry web machine, the web is typically reeled to what is known as a jumbo reel, which is then longitudinally slit into narrower reels of a desired width. During production, these narrower reels are distributed and fed to a preparing machine. However, the width of the web used in the preparing machine may be as narrow as 30 mm, and reeled as a round reel it does not hold together very well, and, most importantly, contains a comparatively small amount of web material. This is why
 10 reels have to be changed very often, even at intervals of a few minutes, when web is fed to the preparing machine. It is uneconomical to transport web either as a jumbo reel or as narrower reels formed by slitting, since relatively much waste space is bound to remain between the round reels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 It is an object of the present invention to produce a novel method and a package produced thereby for packaging a web, which avoid the above problems mainly relating to the use of round web reels in preparing machines and the transport of same to preparing machines. This is achieved by the method of packaging a web according to the invention, in which method a web
 25 is slit into two or more narrower webs which are folded into superimposed layers. The method is characterized by comprising the steps of directing the webs to a nip formed by two rotating reels and by inducing the webs, held against the surfaces of the first and the second reel, to move with the reel alternately the length of a predetermined rotational angle to provide folding, and
 30 joining the ends of the webs together so that the webs form a continuous whole whose length corresponds to the combined length of the webs. Thus the web material forms a single continuous whole which can also be distributed as a continuous web during further processing. Webs obtained by slitting from a wide web can be joined together at their ends in principle in two alternative ways, either by joining the forward end of a web and the forward end of
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